

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

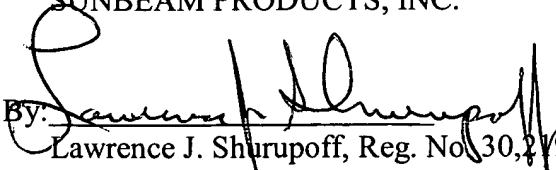
Claims 11-16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ernest* and claims 1-10 have been indicated as being allowed over the prior art of record. New claim 17 has been introduced for the examiner's consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-17 remain active in the present application.

Considering the rejection of claims 11-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ernest*, it is submitted that claim 11, the sole independent claim in this grouping, has been amended so as to patentably define over *Ernest*. More particularly, claim 11 has been amended to indicate that a humidifier includes both first and second reservoirs, and that water from the first reservoir is released into a second reservoir, and that a fan blowing air across water in the second reservoir blows the water into ambient atmosphere. No suggestion of dual reservoirs is found in *Ernest*, and accordingly it is submitted that applicant's claim 11, as well as dependent claims 12-16, merit an indication of allowability.

Claim 17 has been drafted to emphasize that a user operated switch includes a movable shaft having a switch engaging cam portion and a valve activating portion on the movable shaft for operating the valve. No similar structure is shown in any reference of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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